

**Western Washington Native American Education Consortium  
January 19, 2017**

Host: Heather Dismuke

Clover Park School District-10903 Gravelly Lake Dr, Lakewood, Washington

Call to Order 9:15 Heather Dismuke, WWNAEC Vice President

Prayer: Heather Dismuke

Introductions & Logistics: Heather Dismuke

Mary Wilber-Consortium Chair

Joan Banker-OSPI

Val Kimball

Maxine Alex

Michelle Marco

Martha Sherman

Dorothy Apple

Josh Lynch-OSPI

David Murphy-OSPI

Michael Vendiola-OSPI

Cina Wilbure

Bethel

Karla-Bethel

Sara Ortiz

Ann Bates

Sandra Gordon

Jerod Keopp

Shelly Hamrick

Heather Dismuke

Robin Pratt

Theresa Lockram

Sandra Gordon

Tommy Segundo\*

Laura Wong-Whitebear\*

Rich Summers\*

Arlie Neskahi\*

Cindy Webster-Martinson

Sally Keeley

Kristine Rose

Sancheen Collins

Alexis Mercurief

Kellie Towers

Minutes were tabled to the next March 15th meeting, as copies were unavailable and overhead was not readable.

**Committee Board Reports**

### **Treasurer Report-Michelle Marco, Treasurer**

Updates on balances

19 Conference Registrations for Educators Conference

Ann updated us on the status of Whaling Funds. She has called Maria Pasqua and they are awaiting tribal council approval.

Motion to approve treasurer's report

Mary Wilbur made motion. Dorothy Apple 2nd the motion.

No opposition. Passes with no nays.

### **Merit Award-Sandra Gordon, New Committee Chair**

Sandra described the changes were made to this year's application: change of address to new Chair's school location in Yelm, deadline is April 14, 2017, a question was changed and it is on the website now. The new question is "Explain your understanding of the Dakota Access Pipeline Controversy." Mary reminded everyone about membership if you don't attend the Educator's Conference you cannot nominate students. You must have a membership to nominate students. Individual membership can nominate one student and group memberships have unlimited nominations for the Merit Award. Shelly pointed out that we'll need to change Title VII to Title VI for next year. Mary pointed out that at the March meeting Sandra might want to solicit potential readers.

### **Old Business**

#### **NAYLA**

Youth Leadership Cascade Camp is for all WWNAEC members. There is also an application. Martha had both and passed them around. Robin suggested if we open it up to other groups, we need to provide security for them. There was discussion about the need for security. Heather said Steve and her husband can provide security. We will request an event flyer from Frank. A reminder to double check with your districts on approval for additional activities.

### **New Business**

#### **Educators Conference**

February 23-24th. Registration is open. Jason will be the vendor coordinator. Martha is in charge of the Silent Auction.

Mary sent around draft agenda. Mary said the keynote speakers have confirmed and gave a little information on each of them. Martha said that Puyallup Tribal Color Guard will be able to participate in our conference after all; at few of them will not be going on the trip. A point by point review of the agenda was made. Workshops: Joan and Laura will do a WASDA workshop which sparked more discussion. Theresa talked to how few social studies teachers attend her STI workshop. This lead to further discussion on how STI is going in other districts and Laura Wong-Whitebear spoke to how things are going in her district and commented that we need the teachers to review and participate to give input on "glitches" and improve the curriculum to validate their participation. Theresa said an incentive is providing free books for teachers. Michael Vendiola said that OPSI's role is also working to establishing relationships with tribes now. Ideally it would be multiple tribes working together to approach tribes instead of individual districts trying to establish relationships with tribes. We are trying to be the launch pad for the new era of education. Mary reintroduced Josh Lynch to talk to HB 1541. However, there was a lot of discussion about the relationship between tribes and school districts and Robin talked to

her experience. Val suggested that maybe a webinar should be established to send out to Superintendents. Michael said an update on ESSA will be sent out with an invite to all Federal Program Managers; it will be on the OSPI site soon.

### **HB 1541**

Time was given to Josh Lynch, OSIP, on HB 1541. Josh gave a brief history on how he came to work at OSPI. He said HB 1541 was a comprehensive bill. There are 8 parts to the bill and he will talk to part one. The committee's role was to develop policy on the opportunity gap. Part one is about disproportionality and discipline. The current gaps are worse than the 1970's. The bill first came about in 2013 and addressed the following issues:

- long term suspension reduced to the length of an academic term and keeping and adding language to reduce suspension due only student safety.
- outlined violations could result in long term suspension and expulsion.
- districts cannot suspend "learning" during time of suspension.
- included stronger language on monitoring discipline practices and how it effects the community, especially those of color/discrimination and involving, strengthening the community in developing those policies.
- families must have access to a culturally responsive re-engagement plans.

Part 2, of 1541:

- the need for teachers and staff to be trained in culturally responsive students needs.

The language says that it should be incorporated into teacher trainings but it is still coming. Laura Flores has been tagged at OSPI with this task. Josh said he mentioned it only because we should be part of that. The legislature expedited the rules to accommodate the contemporary issues of today. Part of this is to address institutional racism or the policy of expelling students of color. Closing the gap comes down to student-teacher relationships. Current rules are about the process of expelling students and not about the relationships. Robin asked for articles and how to develop those relationships. There is an emerging body of research about relationships and restorative justice policies and it is in Josh's PowerPoint: "The practice and hearts and mind catch up with the law." There is a lot of anxiety among districts regarding the rules i.e. districts can count suspended students for state funding. How do we make sure districts are following the rules? Currently, there is no pipeline for oversight or monitoring. Hopefully, in the future that there will be discipline leaders in districts like Title I directors. Awareness and education about the law is what this work is about. OSPI is partnering with Education NW in their Regional Office is in Portland to look at equity in discipline in districts, resources and funding opportunities to provide consultation to states. Timeframe is how "we" can assist you is now and late March. The idea is input would inform what goes into training modules. They want to meet with Native families in regards to discipline process, school boards revising their policies, taking a earnest look at data and then sitting down with families to develop policies in a meaningful way. New language in ESSA has to include how to reduce suspension in districts in their title one reports.. There is a discipline task force since 2013 that is working on it. Public Hearing on SB 5155 on a new statute that doesn't allow suspensions of K-2 grades and give districts opportunities to incorporate social justice and restorative justice policies. There will be on opportunity for Native families to meet and give input on their experiences and advise the committee.

### **Bylaws**

There was a period to review the by-laws.  
Martha Sherman moved to approve changes to by-laws  
Sandra Gordon 2nd the motion.  
Motion passes with no nays or abstentions.

### **Bilingual Education-David Murphy**

ELPA testing started in February and go until March. There will be an alternative to Sp.Ed students to allow them to test out. Their Office is doing a comprehensive review in districts to make sure Native students are being served. New Superintendent, Chris Reykdal, mentioned Native students and closing the achievement gap in his first major meeting. He also mentioned that tribes need to work with the 49 districts that are nearest to their reservations. There might be a space for feedback on contributing language to the state plan that the person assigning the discipline should have cultural competency training, a community committee or data and disproportionality review. Mary asked if there was a place to put comment on the state plans which there is. A lot of language wasn't added to HB 1541 because of data issues and accountable data. The group also decided that there needs to be guidelines on what is cultural competency and general guidelines.

### **Carla Louck: How do districts honor their graduates?**

Carla asked and wanted to know what kind of end of year activities do programs have to honor their graduates. North Kitsap has one evening graduation celebration but this year there will be an event at schools during lunch. Clover Park has an evening dinner with an honor song, gave sage/tobacco, then when more funding become available did a honoring at their powwow with a gift of Pendleton blanket. Kent has a cake party and gives certificate to students. Fife does a reward dinner to all grades and invited an inspirational person. Auburn has a celebration for 5th, 8th and 12th grade dinner with sweatshirts. Federal Way district makes Pendleton sashes for students and may or have a dinner. Puyallup had a big dinner, has sashes made, give a blanket. Michael again will be updating his letter to districts regarding wearing an eagle feather and traditional regalia. Kelso honors everyone at their powwow. Edmonds has a dinner at community farm dinner. Val has a dinner and gifts their graduates with necklaces; she also gives elementary student incentives. Mary will be doing a sweat lodge this year. They also give out eagle feathers at the dinner in May.

### **WSIEA**

Conference is April 3-5, 2017 in Spokane announcement made by Sara Ortiz. WSIEA Merit Award will be on the site soon. Please have students apply and nominate educators and elders. Youth Day is April 4th and will be all day onsite.

### **Announcements**

Second annual Highline CC Native Summit is May 17th. Look for more information to come. Sara made that announcement also.

NW Indian Youth Conference is at the same time.

Mary Wilber honored Heather Dismuke who was leaving Clover Park SD for a new job and wished her luck in future endeavors. She was presented with a gift from WWNAEC and Heather gave a short thank you speech.

Meeting is adjourned 12:05 by President Mary Wilber

Professional Development will follow in a provided working lunch.